

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8285
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S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 8240

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AR, UN, IS
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE VOTE ON ANTI-ISRAEL UN RESOLUTIONS QUESTIONED

1. BUENOS AIRES DAILY "LA OPINION" CARRIED ARTICLE IN DECEMBER 11, 12 AND 16 EDITIONS SHARPLY QUESTIONING ARGENTINA'S VOTE IN FAVOR ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS IN UN ON DECEMBER 9. THRUST OF ARTICLES IS THAT ARGENTINE VOTE WAS GRATUITOUS DEPARTURE FROM ITS TRADITIONAL ABSTENTION, WHICH DEMONSTRATES LACK OF COHESIVE FOREIGN POLICY. ARTICLES POINT TO DICHOTOMY BETWEEN POSITION OF ARGENTINA AT NAIROBI CONFERENCE AND IN UN AND NOTE THAT AT SAME TIME ARMED FORCES ARE STRUGGLING AGAINST TERRORISTS AT HOME IT IS STRANGE TO SEE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN UN EMBRACING ARAFAT, ONE OF THE LEADERS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. STRONGLY IMPLICIT IN ARTICLES IS SUGGESTION THAT AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS PLAYED FAST AND LOOSE IN VOTING ON THE TWO RESOLUTIONS AND DID NOT SERVE ARGENTINA WELL.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE OUTSPOKEN IN THEIR CRITICISM. AS ONE PUT IT: "AT THE SAME TIME THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO CONVINCE REST OF WORLD THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE ANTI-SEMITIC TENDENCIES, ORTIZ DE ROZAS, THROUGH HIS INEXPLICABLE VOTES IN UN, HAS GIVEN AMMUNITION TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE OTHERWISE."

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3. MORE OMINOUS FOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS THAN CRITICISM FROM PRESS AND JEWISH COMMUNITY IS FACT THAT FAVORABLE VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS WOULD SEEM TO RUN COUNTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI'S INDICATIONS TO JEWISH GROUPS IN U. S. (DURING HIS RECENT VISIT THERE) THAT ARGENTINA WOULD AT LEAST ABSTAIN AND POSSIBLY EVEN

VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTIONS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY ONE OF ADMIRAL MASSERA'S AIDES THAT MASSERA HIMSELF QUESTIONED GUZZETTI SHARPLY WHEN INFORMED OF THE UN VOTES AND THAT GUZZETTI INSISTS ORTIZ DE ROZAS ACTED WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. INEVITABLY THEN, THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT ORTIZ DE ROZAS MAY HAVE OVERSTEPPED HIMSELF AND BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE WITH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT.

4. CAN USUN SHED ANY LIGHT ON MOTIVES BEHIND ORTIZ DE ROZAS' SHIFT OF POSITIONS ON RESOLUTIONS?
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NNN

Message Attributes

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